

elect their council members. They may choose to do this with four wards and dividing the two wards that they presently have one more time or, in fact, leave the present two ward system where you elect two people from that same ward on alternate years. With that, I think I have clarified the amendment. I would like to speak just a little bit to that. At the hearing, the public hearing that was held on this issue, there was, in fact, opposition from the City of Ralston. Their arguments were very simple and I think somewhat understood. Ralston is a town of just over 5,000. It just attained first class city status in this last census activity. It is their belief that their present two ward system allows for single member districts on alternative years. They have elections every two years. And that system has been in effect since they have been a first class city, since Senator Koch at the time representing Ralston, brought in that sort of change for the City of Ralston. Presently Senator Abboud's bill would require, as it presently is drafted, would require that you divide those two wards one more time and make four wards. The four wards then would be single member districts where you would elect those people from those single member districts. It is my belief that since the city council is opposed, since the mayor is opposed, that it would probably be prudent and reasonable for a small city like Ralston to have an election so that the will of the people can be considered in this home matter.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, would Senator Newell yield to a question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Newell, will you respond please.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Senator Newell, who have you talked to that represented the City of Ralston?

SENATOR NEWELL: Excuse me, who has talked to me?

SENATOR ABOUD: Right. You said that you were talking about that certain people were opposed in the city and I was wondering who you had talked to that gave you that impression?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Abboud, the City of Ralston's attorney, a Mr. Caporale, came before the committee and indicated that the city council was opposed to the bill, and as you remember, I had indicated at that time that hopefully there would be